

Claim Amendments (None to now remaining claims)

1-13. Canceled.

14. (previously presented) A method for communicating between a service control point (SCP), a service switching point (SSP) and an external Intelligent Peripheral (IP), comprising the steps of:

- establishing a voice path connection between SCP and SSP;

- sending a connect to resource request (CTR) from the SCP to the SSP for setting up a path to access an IP resource at the external IP;

- sending an initial address message (IAM) from the SSP to the external IP to setup the path, with address digits of an ipRoutingAddress of said CTR being mapped into a called party number in the IAM;

- sending back an address complete (ACM) message from the external IP and a second voice path is established between the SSP and the external IP;

- sending a play announcement (PA) message from the SCP to the external IP for playing an announcement;

- copying an Intelligent Network Application Part (INAP) operation PA from the SSP into a pass along message (PAM) without decoding the operation, and sending the PAM to the external IP;

- decoding by the external IP the PAM and handling the play announcement operation;

- sending a Specialized Resource Report (SRR) operation in another PAM from the external IP to the SSP;

- extracting by the SSP the SRR from the another PAM and sending the SRR back to the SCP without decoding;

- sending a Disconnect Forward Connection (DFC) from the SCP to the SSP to disconnect the external IP;

- sending a release (REL) message from the SSP to the external IP to release the second voice path connection,

releasing said second voice path by the external IP in response to said REL from the SSP;
and

returning by the external IP a release complete (RLC) message back to the SSP to
acknowledge the release.

15 The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of disconnecting said voice
path by said SCP.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said IP sends an answer message (ANM)
as well as said SRR.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein an UUI parameter of said IAM contains
additional information from said SCP.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said INAP operation is relayed between
said SCP and said IP without a direct link between them.

19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the SSP uses a plurality of signaling
methods to set up the voice path to the IP.

20. Canceled.